

# Aldin Associates, Inc.

77 Sterling Road East Hartford, CT

Aldon Associates is a petroleum marketer based in East Hartford Connecticut. I am here to address you on behalf of our customers, the independent business people who own and operate convenience stores in CT. I am here today in opposition to H.B. No. 7059 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING REGISTRATION FEES FOR SELLERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE PRODUCTS.

In my opinion the proposed \$500 annual licensing fee for the privilege to sell electronic cigarettes is onerous and overall would be detrimental to our industry. Most of the retailers I've spoken with concerning this topic have indicated that the licensing fee would exceed the revenues that the sale of E-cigs and similar devices. generate for them.

An annual fee of \$500 is certain to decrease the number of legitimate retailers offering this type of product for sale and would surely have the unintended consequence of creating an underground black-market. This in turn could lead to a reduction of sales tax revenues collected on the sale of these items.

The business environment in Connecticut is very challenging to navigate, additional fees will only make it more difficult for establishments to survive. Please consider this before advancing the legislation.

Kenneth R Coomes

Wholesale Marketing Representative

Aldin Associates LP